

**A NETWORK INTERFACE DEVICE HAVING VIRTUAL PRIVATE
NETWORK CAPABILITY**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method for providing the communication of information services between customer premises equipment (CPE) at a customer's premises and a source of the information services includes providing a demarcation device at the customer's premises. The demarcation device defines an interface between an external transport medium that is substantially external to the customer's premises and an internal transport medium that is substantially internal to the customer's premises. The method also includes establishing a virtual private network (VPN) between the demarcation device and the source of information services and establishing a virtual local area network (VLAN) between the demarcation device and the CPE.

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